(b) if so, what measures Government propose to adopt to curb this malpractice.

(c) whether it is a fact that between November 7 and December 14, 1986, 134 persons involved in black marketing of railway tickets were caught; and

(d) if so, what kind of punishment was given to these persons ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. With the introduction of computerisation and frequent surprise checks by the Anti Fraud and Vigilance squads, the activities of touts and unauthorised travel agents have been greatly curbed. Surprise checks are conducted in Reservation Complexes and to door to door verification of the reservations done to check reservation on fake names.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. 31 persons, involved in black marketing of railway tickets were apprehended during this period and prosecuted under the extent provisions of the Indian Railways Act. Apart from this, 113 persons were apprehended travelling on transferred reservations during the same period from whom an amount of Rs. 13,558/- was realised besides confiscation of their tickets.

Availabiilty of Beds in Chandigarh Hospitals

995. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of beds available in general wards and private wards respectively, in the hospitals at Chandigarh;

(b) what is the actual requirement of beds at present and that expected by the year 1990;

(c) whether any action is being taken by Government to meet the rising needs of the region; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Financial assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals in the fitld of performing arts

996. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA. Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal under their consideration to give financial assistance to professional groups and individuals engaged in specified art projects in the field of performing arts;

(b) if so, what are the details of the groups to whom the assistance would be given; and

(c) what is the amount of assistance proposed to be given, in each case, and on what basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Such assistance will be given to dramatic groups, theatre groups, music ensembles, solo artists and all genres of performing arts activities.

(c) Assistance is given in the form of grant/subsidy to the approved projects or programmes. The selection is made by an Expert Advisory Committee which scrutinise all the proposals received under this scheme. The maximum grant/subsidy permissible under this scheme is Rs. 40,000/- in a year.

Purchase of Soviet Aircraft

997. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase Soviet aircraft to augment its commercial fleet, in and outside the country; and

(b) whether there have been any discussions with any representative of Soviet Government in this regard and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No final decision has been taken by the Government for purchase of Soviet aircraft.

(b) Discussions have been held from time to time with the representatives of the Soviet Union in the USSR as well as in India. During these discussions, various details regarding the price of the various types of aircraft, lease rate, technical details and other operational parameters and various documents relevant for evaluation of the aircraft have been sought from the Soviet authorities. Air-India has already taken two aircraft (one passenger and one freighter) on lease from the USSR.

Health Services in Rural and Tribal Areas of Bihar

998. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what achievements have been made in the network of providing preventive, promotive and curative health services in the rural and tribal areas in Bihar;

(b) what arrangements are in vogue to keep Health Service Centres in the tribal areas and to utilize the findings of the studies, conducted by prime national research institutes like AIIMS etc. into the causes and cures of genetic diseases; and

(c) what is the present status of the study regarding sickle-cell disease which has been affecting the tribal population in large numbers in Bihar and other places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) For providing preventive, promotive and curative health services in the rural and tribal areas in Bihar, a network of functional Sub-centres (10449), Primary Health Centre (1555) and Community Health Centres (77) have been established till 31-3-1988. Services of 56029 trained dais and 11180 Village Health Guides are also being provided at village level.

(b) and (c) In order to provide health services in the tribal areas, Sub-centres are being opened for every 3000 population and Primary Health Centres for 20,000 population.

रेलवे की अभिरक्षा के अधीन गुम हुई सम्पत्ति

999. **श्रीमती रत्न कुमारी :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रेलवे की अभिरक्षा के अधीन गुम हुई सम्पत्ति के लिये रेलवे ने 1986-87 और 1987-88 के प्रत्येक वर्ष के दौरान कितनी धनराशि हर्जाना के रूप में दी ; और

(ख) सरकार ऐसी घटनाओं को कम से कम करने के लिये क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री महावीर प्रसाद) : (क) रेलवे द्वारा ढोये जाने के लिये बुक किये गये माल के गुम हो जाने, उसकी क्षति होने के लिये 1986-87 के दौरान 42.43 करोड़ रुपये तथा 1987-88 के दौरान 33 34 करोड़ रुपये की क्षतिपूर्ति का भुगतान किया गया।

(ख) रेलें उन्हें ढुलाई के लिये सौंपे माल की सुरक्षा निश्चित करने तथा यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिये कि परेषण बिना किसी चोरी या नुकसान के अपने गंतव्य स्थान तक पहुंच जाये, निरन्तर प्रयास कर रही है। इस प्रयोजन के लिये विभिन्न निवारक उपाय किये जाते हैं, जिसमें परेषणों की समुचित संवेष्टन,